

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 13, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 168-169, 172, 174-175, 177-182, 184, 186-196, 199, 200, 210, 213-218, 220, 227-228, 230-232, 234-237, 241-247, 249, 252, 254, 256, and 258-263 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brick et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,269,342 ("Brick"). Similarly, the Examiner rejected claims 170-171, 173, 176, 198, 201, 203-204, 206, 208-209, 211-212, 219, 221-226, 229, 233, 238-239, 250-251, and 253 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brick in view of Rhoads U.S. Patent No. 6,311,214 ("Rhoads"). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 183, 185, 197, 202, 205, 207, 240, 248, and 257 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brick in view of Reber et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,995,105 ("Reber").

Applicant has amended claim 168 to add "material" and "machine recognizable" which were inadvertently omitted from the originally submitted claim 168 and has not amended for any reasons of patentability.

Additionally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting a September 9, 2002 telephone interview. As discussed, Applicant amended the specification to properly cross reference related applications and to claim the May 25, 1994 filing date of the

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

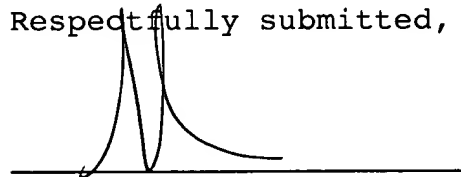
1 '799 application in Applicant's Supplemental Amendment filed on
2 May 7, 2002 and received by the USPTO on May 20, 2002. An
3 effective filing date of May 25, 1994 predates the filing dates
4 of Brick, Rhoads, and Reber, which were relied upon by the
5 Examiner for the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)
6 rejections. Consequently, the aforementioned references cited by
7 the Examiner are not proper references against this application.

8 In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant
9 submits that claims 168-263 are in condition for allowance.
10

11 **CONCLUSION**

12 In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits
13 that the present invention represents a patentable contribution
14 to the art and the application is in condition for allowance.
15 Early and favorable action is accordingly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: December 13, 2002

John W. Olivo, Jr.
Reg. No. 35,634
WARD & OLIVO
382 Springfield Avenue
Summit, New Jersey 07901
(908)277-3333